following measures for passenger safety:

(i) Passengers are educated on safety and security through notices and announcements over the Public Address System and CCTV.

(ii) Precautions on safety and security are frequently publicized through the print and electronic media.

(iii) Regular co-ordination is maintained with the Government Railway Police at all level.

(iv) The Railway Minister recently held a meeting on 15.01.2000 with the Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police to discuss issues affecting security of Railway passengers. A Committee consisting of officials of Railway Ministry, Home Ministry and some State Governments has been constituted in the above connection.

(v) It is also proposed to evolve a Passenger Safety Network to improve the security of passengers.

Shortage of Rail Accident Relief Cranes

249. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of Rail Accident Relief Cranes in the country;

(b) the number of relief cranes presently in operation in the country;

(c) the number of such cranes located in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether it is a fact that the cranes placed in Andhra Pradesh are generally out of maintenance;

(e) what are the reasons for the railways neglecting this crucial aspect of rail accident relief operations; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, more of 140 T High Capacity Cranes are being inducted to replace the existing low capacity steam cranes depending upon need and availability of funds.

(b) There are a total of 79 Accident Relief Cranes on the BG system and 47 Accident Relief Cranes on the MG system.

(c) 10 Accident Relief Cranes are located in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) All Accident Relief Cranes on the Indian Railway system are carefully maintained with a system of regular schedules and periodical overhauls and any problems are immediately attended to. Keeping in view the key role played by Accident Relief Cranes in disaster management, Indian Railways give a lot of emphasis on proper upkeep and maintenance of these vital assets. Hence, the question of neglecting the crucial aspect of railway accident relief operations does not arise.

Construction of road over-bridges in Karnataka

250. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government made a proposal in 1997 for construction of two Road over-bridges between Shimoga-Holehonnur Road and Shimoga-Honnali Road at the existing level crossing, in view of the heavy traffic;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the views of Government in the matter;

(c) whether adequate allocation for implementation of the State's proposal has been made in the Railway Budget for 1999-2000; and

(d) if so, how much and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No firm proposal was received in 1997. However, proposal for both these